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STRAVINSKY

# ПЕТРУШКА

Complete Ballet  
"Original Edition"

ERNEST ANSERMET  
Conducting  
L'ORCHESTRE  
DE LA  
SUISSE  
ROMANDE



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# P E T R U S H K A

L'ORCHESTRE DE LA SUISSE ROMANDE, conducted by ERNEST ANSERMET

In the midst of the Shrovetide rejoicings, an old Charlatan of oriental appearance produces to the astounded crowd animated dolls, Petrushka, the Ballerina and the Moor, who proceed to execute a wild, abandoned dance.

The Charlatan's magic has imbued them with all the human feelings and passions. Petrushka, however, is endowed with a greater measure than the others, so that he suffers more than the Ballerina and the Moor. He bitterly resents the cruelty of the Charlatan, his slavery and his exclusion from ordinary life, his ugliness and ridiculous appearance. He seeks consolation in the love of the Ballerina, and just as he believes he has succeeded the beauty flees, frightened by his strange manners.

The life of the Moor is entirely different. He is stupid and wicked but his magnificent appearance charms the Ballerina, who exerts all her wiles to captivate him and at last succeeds in doing so. As the love scene is about to commence Petrushka arrives, mad with jealousy, but the Moor loses no time in throwing him out.

The Shrovetide Carnival is approaching its climax. A merrymaking merchant accompanied by singing gypsy girls throws handfuls of banknotes to the crowd. Coachmen dance with nursemaids, a man with a dancing bear arrives, and finally a troop of masked dancers lead everyone in a wild, diabolical dance. Suddenly cries are heard from the Charlatan's marionette theatre. The rivalry between the Moor and Petrushka has ended by taking a tragic turn. The animated dolls dash out of the theatre and with a blow of his sword the Moor strikes Petrushka down. Poor Petrushka dies miserably in the snow, surrounded by the carnival crowd. Questioned by a policeman the Charlatan hastens to reassure the crowd and under his hands Petrushka becomes a doll again. He asks those around him to assure themselves that its head is made of wood and its body filled with sawdust. The crowd disperses. Left alone, the Charlatan is terror-stricken at

seeing above the miniature theatre the ghost of Petrushka, who threatens him and mocks those who have been fooled by the Charlatan.

## *First Tableau—Fête Populaire De La Semaine Grasse.*

The popular Shrovetide Carnival. The barker at the fair is amusing the crowd round the booths by pulling faces. A group of drunken men go dancing by and the barker resumes his exhortations. An Italian organ-grinder appears with a dancer; she dances to the accompaniment of a triangle, whilst the organ-grinder plays the tune on a trumpet, grinding the organ with his other hand. Nearby, another musical box is playing for another dancer. The crowd surge back on to the scene and the group of drunken men again pass by.

## *First Tableau—Le Tour de Passe—Passe.*

The excitement is increasing, but is suddenly stopped by the roll of a drum attracting the crowd to the marionettes. The Charlatan appears in front of the little theatre playing a magic flute with which he commences to make passes in the air. The curtain of the marionette theatre rises and shows the three dolls, Petrushka, the Ballerina and the Moor, whom the Charlatan brings to life by touching them with his flute.

## *Danse Russe. Second Tableau—Chez Petrushka.*

The dolls dance (Russian dance) until they drop exhausted. The drums of the fair are again heard in the background and we are transported (second scene) to the inside of the little theatre, into Petrushka's room. Petrushka is kicked into the room, where he falls and picks himself up groaning. Seeing the Charlatan's portrait on the wall, he stamps with rage and curses the picture.

Petrushka dissolves into tenderness when he thinks of the Ballerina, and a song of love for her is born in his heart. Suddenly she appears. He tries to sing his love song but abruptly declares his love and the Ballerina flees. Petrushka is in despair.

## *Third Tableau—Chez le Maure.*

The third scene takes us to the Moor's room. The Moor is there, magnificent and feline, toying with a coconut. There is a fanfare of trumpets, followed by a roll of drums. The Ballerina enters carrying a cornet. She dances, at first slowly and then faster and faster, accompanied by the Moor; he then takes the Ballerina in his arms. Suddenly Petrushka appears and attempts to seize the Ballerina, but the Moor, armed with a sword, throws himself on Petrushka and drives him out whilst the Ballerina faints.

## *Fourth Tableau—Fête Populaire de Semaine Grasse—Au Soir.*

The fourth scene brings us back to the fair ground. The scene is the same but it is evening. The nursemaids begin to dance. The crowd is moving continuously, and makes room for (I) a peasant playing his pipes and accompanied by a dancing bear on a chain (a drunken man imitates the pipe). (II) A merrymaking merchant who throws banknotes to the crowd and is accompanied by two gypsy girls who dance to the rhythm of their tambourines.

Coachmen and grooms start dancing and are speedily joined first by the nursemaids then by the crowd. Masked figures go past, a masked devil mocks the crowd, two men dressed as a goat and a pig indulge in buffoonery.

Night is approaching and snow is falling. The maskers and mummers continue their dance, in which they are joined by the crowd. Suddenly cries are heard from the little theatre; Petrushka dashes out, followed by the Moor, head with a blow from his sword. Petrushka dies with a who catches up to him and strikes him down, smashing his faint cry on his lips. The people crowd round him stupefied.

A policeman approaches, bringing with him the Charlatan, who picks up the little body and shakes it to show the crowd that it is only a sawdust-filled doll. The crowd slowly breaks up. The Charlatan turns to take the doll back to the theatre but sees above the latter the ghost of Petrushka grimacing at him. Alarmed, he drops the doll and runs away, looking back fearfully over his shoulder.

ERNEST ANSERMET

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PETRUSHKA—BALLET  
*(Stravinsky)*

1st Tableau: The Shrovetide Fair  
2nd Tableau: In Petrushka's Room

ERNEST ANSERMET  
*conducting*  
L'ORCHESTRE DE LA SUISSE  
ROMANDE

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PETRUSHKA—BALLET  
(Stravinsky)

3rd Tableau: In the Moor's Room  
4th Tableau: The Shrovetide Fair (Evening)

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